
To: Groundwater Management Area Subcommittee

Cc: Groundwater Advisory Committee; Science and Technical Work Groups

From: Jodi Habush Sinykin

Re: List of potential Groundwater Advisory Committee recommendations pursuant to the Committee's statutory charge to compile recommendations for legislation and administrative rules implementing the Act and addressing the management of groundwater in the GMAs, including development of a mitigation program encompassing conservation measures and best management practices.

A. Correction of Existing Statutory and Regulatory Barriers to Water Conservation in Wisconsin

1. Development/ promulgation of regulations to require conservation for high capacity well permit holders under the Groundwater Quantity Act.
2. Enactment of legislation precluding large-scale water users from opting out of available public water utility systems – e.g. by means of mandatory connection provisions or high capacity well permit conditions.
3. Recommendation that the Public Service Commission apply an increasing block rate structure or other conservation-oriented structure to the state's GMAs and promote water conservation measures statewide.
4. Development of a regulatory and institutional framework addressing/promoting the use of reclaimed water as a means to recharge groundwater supplies and to decrease water demand.
5. Amendment of Wisconsin Statute section 281.35 to require all entities seeking new or increased water withdrawals in excess of 100,000 gallons per day (versus the 2 million gallon per day trigger under the current statute) to have implemented conservation measures prior to approval, consistent with the high capacity well permit threshold under the Groundwater Quantity Act.